

Senate Resolution 498

By: Senators James of the 35th and Orrock of the 36th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Xernona Clayton; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Xernona Clayton is the founder, president, and CEO of the Trumpet Awards  
3 Foundation, Inc., and creator and executive producer of the Foundation's Trumpet Awards;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the Trumpet Awards is a prestigious event highlighting African American  
6 accomplishments and contributions; initiated in 1993 by Turner Broadcasting, the Trumpet  
7 Awards has been televised annually and distributed internationally to more than 185  
8 countries around the world; and

9 WHEREAS, Xernona moved to Atlanta in 1965 where she accepted a position with the  
10 Southern Christian Leadership Conference and worked closely with the late Dr. Martin  
11 Luther King, Jr.; she also traveled extensively with Mrs. Coretta Scott King on her  
12 nationwide concert tours; and

13 WHEREAS, she began her television career in 1967 and became the South's first Black  
14 person to have her own television show, *The Xernona Clayton Show*; it was a regular feature  
15 on WAGA-TV, the CBS affiliate in Atlanta; and

16 WHEREAS, Xernona was employed at Turner Broadcasting for nearly 30 years where she  
17 served as a corporate executive and became one of its highest-ranking female employees  
18 when she was appointed corporate vice president for urban affairs; in this capacity, she  
19 directed internal and external projects for the corporation and served as liaison between  
20 Turner Broadcasting and civic groups in Atlanta and across the country; and

21 WHEREAS, her persistent fight against the demons of prejudice and bigotry was never more  
22 apparent than in 1968, when the grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan denounced the Klan and  
23 credited Xernona's influence with his change; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding achievements of this  
25 extraordinary leader be appropriately recognized.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
27 recognize and commend Xernona Clayton for her innumerable contributions to society and  
28 extend the most sincere best wishes for continued success.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
30 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Xernona Clayton.